

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 FAA-00 DOTE-00

CPR-01 PER-01 SSC-01 /085 W

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R 201650Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9370

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, SCUL

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS ARIKPO

1. AMBASSADOR EASUM CALLED ON MEA COMMISSIONER OKOI ARIKPO MAY 20. DCM CROSBY AND NIGERIAN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL IHAMA ALSO PRESENT. PICKING UP THEIR EARLIER ASSOCIATION AT U.N., DR. ARIKPO WAS PARTICULARLY CORDIAL, EXPRESSING NIGERIAN GRATIFICATION AND HIS SPECIAL PERSONAL PLEASURE AT EASUM APPOINTMENT AND EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE FMG ATTACHES TO RELATIONS WITH U.S. ARIKPO SAID HE HAD NOTED WITH INTEREST AMBASSADOR'S RECENT SPEECH TO NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON IN NEW YORK. HE SAID NIGERIANS ARE FRIENDS OF THE U.S. AND THEREFORE CAN BE EXPECTED TO SPEAK FRANKLY. AMBASSADOR WELCOMED THIS AND SAID ARIKPO COULD COUNT ON HIM TO RECIPROcate IN THE SAME SPIRIT.

2. RECALLING HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER LAST FALL AT UNGA AND SECRETARY'S OFT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING AFRICA, ARIKPO REITERATED HIS HOPE SECRETARY WOULD BE ABLE

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TO ARRANCE SUCH A TRIP AND WOULD INCLUDE NIGERIA. HE SAID

NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT PLEASED TO SEE PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT PLEDGES TO WORK TO OBTAIN REMOVAL OF COUNTRIES LIKE NIGERIA FROM EXCLUSION PROVISIONS OF TRADE LEGISLATION ON GENERALIZED PREFERENCES.

3. AMBASSADOR CITED EXTENT OF AWARENESS OF AND ATTENTION TO NIGERIA THAT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED IN MAJOR U.S. CITIES, RANGING FROM BUSINESSMEN AND INVESTORS TO STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ORDINARY CITIZENS. HE NOTED GROWING ENTHUSIASM OF INTEREST IN UPCOMING BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL, POINTING OUT SUBSTANTIAL ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS STILL REQUIRED ON PART OF NORTH AMERICAN ZONAL COMMITTEE IF PRESENT TARGET DATES WERE TO BE MET. ARIKPO REAFFIRMED THAT FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE AS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED AND SAID THAT PREPARATIONS WERE MOVING AHEAD RAPIDLY. HE SAID NIGERIA HOPED TO SEE THE LARGEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION FROM THE U.S.

4. AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED U.S. MISSION'S CURRENT EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE SHIPMENT OF EMERGENCY WAREHOUSING FOR IKEJA AIRPORT PURSUANT REQUEST FROM SMG AIIDA. CHARGE POINTED OUT U.S. MANUFACTURER HAD WORKED ALL WEEKEND SO SHIPMENT COULD COMMENCE THIS WEEK; KEY REQUIREMENT NOW WAS MEA TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAPHIC AUTHORIZATION TO AMBASSADOR GARBA TO COMMIT FUNDS FOR SHELTERS AS SOON AS FMG CLEARANCE IS SECURED. ARIKPO WAS ALREADY AWARE OF MATTER AND ASSURED US AUTHORIZATION WOULD BE TRANSMITTED WITH UTMOST EXPEDITION.

5. REGARDING PRESENTATION AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS, ARIKPO SAID MEA IS TRYING VERY HARD TO HAVE HIM INCLUDED AS FOURTH AMBASSADOR TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO HEAD OF STATE MAY 22. HE SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF ARRIVAL OF CHIEFS OF STATE FOR ECOWAS MEETING, BUT IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE FOR AMBASSADOR TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND OPENING SESSION OF THAT MEETING. ARIKPO GAVE POINTED INSTRUCTIONS TO IHAMA TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HAVE EASUM INCLUDED IN MAY 22 PRESENTATION.

6. COMMENT: MEETING WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT, APPEARED REFLECT GENUINE FMG DESIRE FOSTER GOOD U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONS. IF MAY 22 PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS DOES NOT MATERIALIZE, IT WILL NOT BE FOR LACK OF MEA EFFORTS.
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EASUM

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Message Attributes

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